



# TASK



March 2021, Vol.37 No. 1

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## From the Editor

Welcome to the March 2021 edition of your TASK newsletter! I don't know about you but personally, this winter, with all the lockdowns and social isolation, has been a real challenge! I had all the time in the world to work on my r/c projects, but I found the motivation to be lacking. I managed to get a few things repaired/completed, but I still have a long list of unfinished "To Do" items.

I want thank President, Andy Meysner and Treasurer, Ann Tekatch for their submissions to this month's TASK! It makes my job so much easier and makes our newsletter more interesting to read. Thank you for leading by example! We all win when we all participate!

I'm usually pretty well done with old man winter at this point and this year is no exception! The only thing that keeps me going is knowing that in a few months, we will all be back on the flying field enjoying our hobby. Hopefully, some of us will even have immunity against the Covid virus by then!

I hope you all were able to get a few things knocked off your "To Do" list for the upcoming flying season! I'm looking forward to



exploring more slope and aero towing adventures! Most of all, I'm looking forward to seeing all my r/c flying friends and life getting back to some form of normalcy.

Come on Spring! See you at the field!

Respectfully submitted,

Lyle Jeakins,

TASK Editor

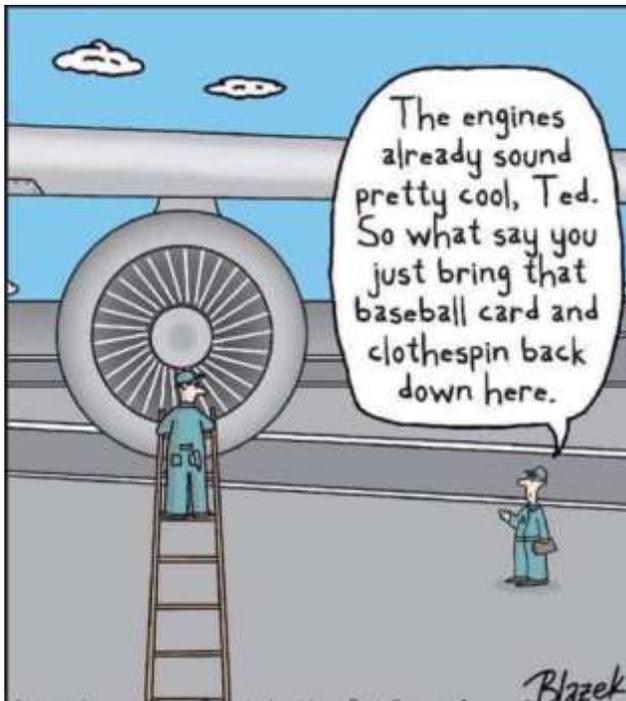
### Thoughts For The Day:

"Life is a long lesson in humility." -James M. Barrie

(the author must have been an avid r/c builder/pilot!)

"I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have." -Thomas Jefferson

### Humour



## President's Message March 2021

Well folks, it looks like the end of this unprecedented disruption to our lives is in sight if the vaccines continue to work as they are at present. I'm going to predict that our flying season starting hopefully 2-3 months as I write this will be more open to social activity than it was last year. Perhaps we'll be able to enjoy some contests and BBQs.

I have to admit that I have been missing getting out of the house throughout the winter, but have been keeping myself more than fully occupied, apart from Netflix and naps that is. I've finished the Supra wing apart from bagging the outer sections, which I need warmer weather for to ensure the epoxy fully sets. From there on it will be more or less plain sailing, more like an ARF. So hopefully it will be seen in the air in 2022. I've taken a short break from the Supra to repair the Flamingo, so that I have a plane to aerotow this coming season. The Flamingo fuselage split open at the wing root while under aerotow at 700' last year and came down like a very heavy dethermalized free flight model. It needs a lot of composite patching of cracks and reinforcement at the fuselage to wing joint, but I'm reasonably confident it will fly again.

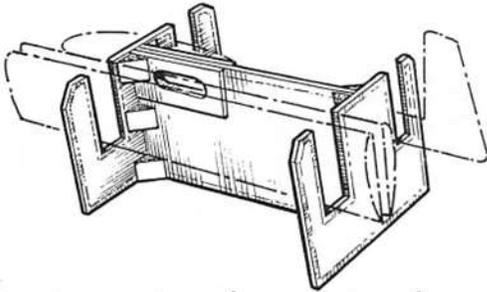
I always seem to have more on my plate than time for. So I really have to discipline myself to avoid buying something new that will only slow down current projects. But there are 2 small models out there that stir my interest - check them out. They are the 2 most recent articles (as of Feb 28) on the sailplane magazine section of RC Groups, <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/channels.php?id=36>. The Delta Models Blink sloper version and the Micro Bird of Time.

Please don't hesitate to let us know what you have been up to with activities related to our hobby, or not related for that matter, at our online meetings or with an article for TASK. You will likely read this after our March online meeting, but there will still be one in April. And we are always looking for more diverse content for TASK.

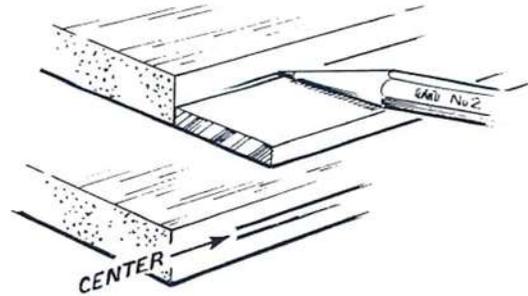
Looking forward to seeing you in person in a few months,

Andy

## Hobby Hacks



Here is an inexpensive and easy way to make a carry caddy. Use ¼-inch foam board, wood corner blocks, and white glue. Cover all exposed edges with masking tape. Note the doublers for the carrying handle that's situated at the balance point. *Steve Felker, Stone Mountain, Georgia.*



Prior to cutting hinge slots, finding the center of the piece is not always a simple job. Use a strip of wood or plastic (not necessarily half the thickness of the piece to be slotted) as a gauge. Make a mark as shown, then flop the piece over and make a second mark. The resulting space between the two marks is the center. *Frank Kelly, Calgary, Canada.*

## Ask An Expert:

Many of our members have an extensive background in flying land planes, and therefore may be aware how to deal with this situation. This problem was all new to me. I have a 2M Fournier F4-RD that has split elevators. The original setup with two heavy gauge control wires joined together feeding into one servo, resulted in too much resistance. You can buy metal blocks to better connect the wires, but I decided to split the control of the elevators with two servos. In my mind I thought I could use a “y” harness and connect both to the elevator control.

The problem arose when I had to alternate the layout of the servos to allow for the control horn clearances. Now of course there was a problem with one going in one direction and the other servo rotating in the opposite.

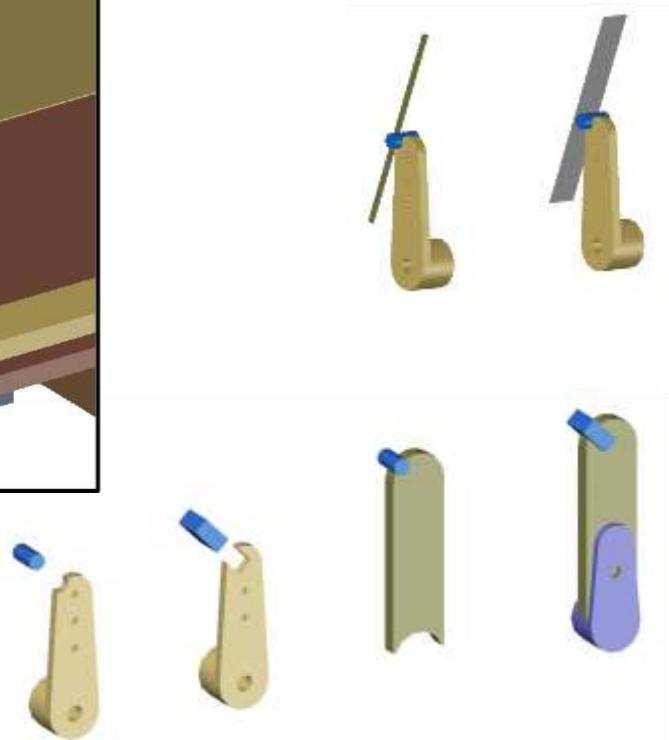
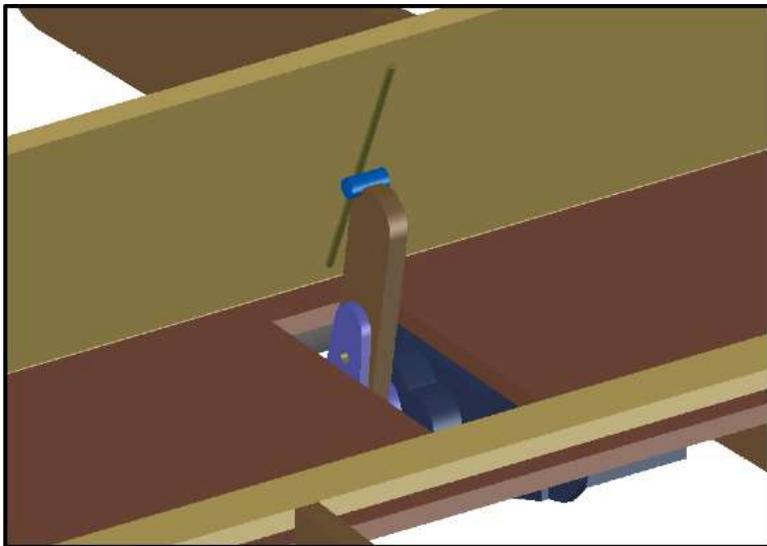
Fortunately, I was able to contact our electronics guru, Adam Maas. This was his reply: “on your DX6 transmitter, go to set up and aircraft type. Choose “normal wing” and “dual elevators”! (Whoa! I didn’t even know that option was available!) I then connected the left elevator to the normal elevator connection and used Aux 1, to connect the right elevator. Next, I went to the servo menu and clicked on “travel” and cycled through to “servo direction” and reversed the direction of one of the elevator servos. Problem solved, thanks to Adam!

Just a reminder, if you have an issue that has left you scratching your head, there is a lot of problem-solving ability in our membership. Don't be afraid to reach out and share your experiences. One of the many advantages of belonging to a club like SOGGI!

### **Spoiler Activation System:**

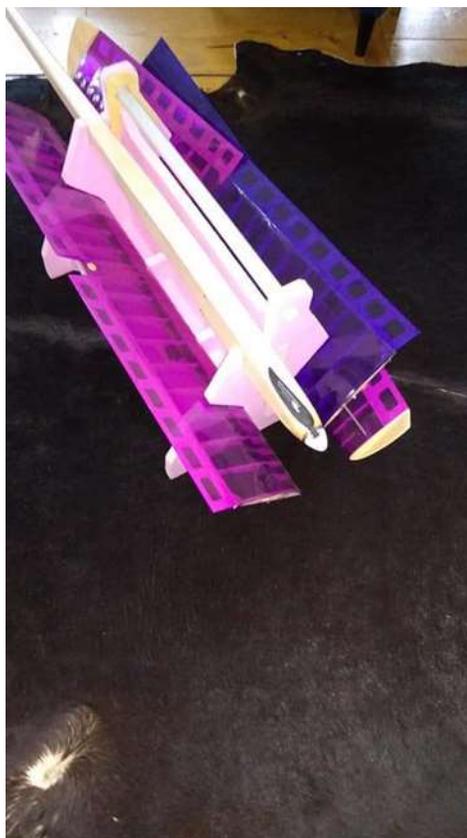
I'm sure most of you have a favourite way of activating the spoilers on your sailplanes. I came upon this method whilst trolling through the RCGroups forums recently. "Sea Pea", a member of the group, contributed this system which I thought I would share with our members.

A small magnet is glued to a servo arm extension. The magnet rides on a thin wire which is glued to the backside of the spoiler. There is a video that the author made showing the set up in action. Looks pretty simple and effective to me.



## Fun With Foam:

Ann Tekatch submitted this item that she found on the internet. It follows along the same lines as the item I submitted in the Hobby Hacks section above. I thought we should share with the rest of you. Maybe some of you have already tried this? Let us know how yours turned out?



## Blast From The Past!

Bob Thayer was kind enough to pass on a picture taken at the Rockton Hall in 2003, some 18 years ago! Some of you, who have been in the club for a long time will have no problem identifying the members present in the photograph. President Andy can name five, I only recognize four! How many can you name?? Send me your answer and we will be able declare a winner!



## The KF Crossbow Slope Soarer: Andy Meysner

Early in 2020 we had the idea of a club project to build a simple and cheap slope soarer to encourage members who had not flown at Westover before, to do so. We found the [KF\\* Crossbow on RC Groups](#) that seemed to fit the bill.

The idea was that a few of us would build one and try it out at Westover during 2020 and then, if successful, have a build project over one or two sessions at our Rockton Hall over the 2020/2021 winter.



As our usual meetings at Rockton are currently out of bounds, here is a summary of where we are with this initiative. Even if you already fly at the slope and don't need a plane, this is so relatively cheap and quick to build that it is worthwhile and fun.

At least two have been built by SOGGI members and I can say it flies well once you've figured out how to set it up. I had to play with the CG position, reflex, control surface deflections and rates before it flew well. [Here is a short video clip](#) taken at Westover.

I won't go into a detailed build because you can readily find most of what you need to know on the above RC Groups thread. But here is a summary and tips that may help you, with a description of some modifications I made, to make it more durable.

### Materials:

- 2 sheets of Dollar Tree foam (~\$5 for both)
- 2 pieces carbon bar stock, 0.6mm x 4.0mm x 1.0m, Great Hobbies #[CSTT722LM](#) (~\$14 for both)
- 2 sub-micro servos. I used GWS picos that I had to hand. But something like [Spektrum A330s](#) would do. ~\$23 for both
- Receiver. Depends on your radio of course, but if Spektrum, a [Lemon 0034](#) would do. \$28
- Battery. I started with a 4 cell NiMH 170mAh, but found later a larger battery was better as I needed to add some lead up front. I used a [Dynamite 4 cell 220Mah](#). \$25

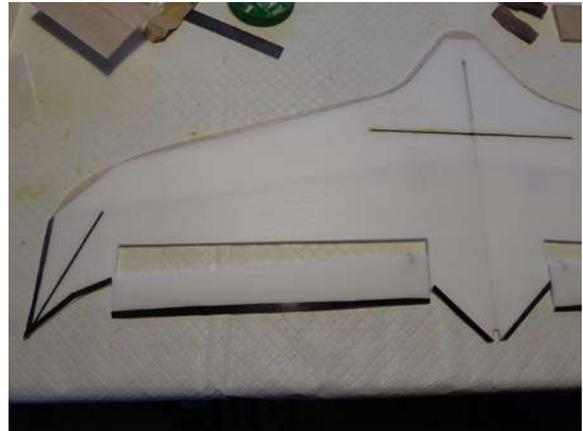
- Miscellaneous material for; pushrods, control horns, hinge tape, battery and receiver compartment. As described below I also added a balsa leading edge and covered with Ultracote Lite/Parklite.

Total cost ~\$100-\$120

*\*Has a Kline-Fogleman (i.e. stepped) airfoil*

### The build and some tips:

- I found the best useable plan to be the 6 sheets on post #1 of the RC Groups thread. They can be printed on letter size paper and joined together. If you find it easier I can email them to you, they are less than 50 KB each. I cut out cardboard templates of each foam part in anticipation of a SOGGI group build. You can borrow them if you wish, which will save time.



- I used a combination of foam safe CA where I needed fast adhesion and Superphatic where adhesive setting time was not a concern.
- I made the following optional modifications to improve durability:

- added CF bar stock to reinforce the wing tips (se photo). There is enough CF left over to do that.



- added a strip of CF tow on all the trailing edges.
- added a balsa leading edge
- covered the entirety with Ultracote Lite/Parklite. That provides some skin strength, adds colour, saves colouring by other means and gives slight protection to the foam. You just need to make sure you use a low iron setting to melt the adhesive without shrinking the covering or melting the foam. Do a test first.

- I didn't bother with the cutout recess for the Rx and battery. But I built a foam/balsa housing with a plastic canopy.
- I recommend gluing in the vertical stabilizer/ventral fin as the very last operation, even after covering. It is difficult to handle while doing the entire assembly if the stab is in place.
- My build ended up with slight anhedral, not intentional. That does not seem to affect flight performance, though it would be more stable if it was flat or with slight dihedral. You might want to ensure the wing is held flat while fitting the CF bar stock at the KF step. Or it could be due to the covering.
- My experience with flying wings is that they need some reflex to glide well. At the plan CG position I could not get it to test glide well, even by adjusting reflex. I finally put the CG ~15-20mm forward of the KF step at the root and it flew OK with minimal or no reflex. I had to add some lead at the nose to obtain that CG.
- The AUW of mine is 171g. I wouldn't worry about the weight as I think it may well fly better a bit heavier, and I found it needs a stronger wind than expected to stay aloft.



This isn't a model that you will want to fly for hours at the slope, but is fun to dance around in lift and get the hang of slope soaring if you don't want to risk a more expensive model. If there is enough interest when life gets back to normal, we can still hold some Crossbow build workshops.

## SkyBox by Skybench Aerotech: Ann Tekatch

SkyBox is a field tool box designed by Scott Black of [Skybench Aerotech](#) for sailplane pilots. It is smaller and lighter than those offered by SIG Mfg or Great Planes because it does not have a compartment for a jug of fuel or a large battery. It is meant to carry just the essentials for a quick trip to the field or slope. The completed dimensions of the SkyBox are 16 1/8" long x 7 3/4" wide x 9 15/16" high.

The kit arrived in a sturdy cardboard box. The 1/8" plywood parts were beautifully laser cut. A wooden knob for the single drawer was included as well as two plastic Plano small parts boxes. The Plano boxes fit perfectly into the two shelves on the end of the completed SkyBox.

Laser cut kits are a joy to assemble and, for the most part, this one was, too. The plywood parts fit into one another like a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle, but some minor warping meant that I had to "convince" some parts to sit square while I quickly CA-ed them into place with thin CA. After the parts were set, I applied medium CA to the inside of all joints to make them strong.

Wooden, laser cut washers glued to the round handle on either side of the box's uprights keep the handle in place while allowing it to spin. This allows the box to always remain oriented to the ground and prevents spills.

Other than the wooden knob, the single drawer does not come with any hardware to keep it closed. Magnets were suggested in the assembly manual, so I glued a strip of metal I cut from a Christmas box of



Quality Street chocolates on the back of the drawer and some rare-earth magnets to the inside of the drawer enclosure. This worked very nicely and the drawer stays closed. (As an added bonus, we had to eat all the Quality Street chocolates once they lost the lid to their box.)

My SkyBox kit was one of the first made by Scott Black. I ran into a problem with the 2 shelves being  $\frac{1}{4}$ " too wide. I emailed Scott to let him know so he could alert other kit purchasers. He offered to replace the shelves, but the problem was easily fixed by running them through my hobby table saw. It turns out that the laser cutting file he used on the first batch of kits was an old one with incorrect shelf dimensions. He corrected the file so future kits would not have this issue. I was impressed with Scott's service. All of this back-and-forth communication occurred just a few days before Christmas, yet he responded to my emails quickly.



I finished the SkyBox using a spray can of Ultra Cover Multi-Purpose Paint & Primer in gloss clear from Home Depot. I sprayed the box in our garage and then brought it inside to cure in our downstairs bathroom where I could vent the fumes outside while keeping the box warm. This was a Big Mistake. The house soon reeked of solvent fumes and I was reminded of this many times by my family. Many. Times. (Note to self: finish projects in warmer weather and/or use a different product.)

The bottom of the SkyBox is plywood and because I didn't want it to get scratched on the basement floor or outside on the ground, I attached  $\frac{3}{4}$ " square, clear, silicone, self-adhesive feet in the four corners.

The kit was \$59.95 U.S. plus \$34.00 US shipping. Once the kit hit the Canadian border, UPS slapped on a broker fee (ouch) in addition to the usual H.S.T. The final cost delivered to my door was \$158.68 Cdn. Using the US postal service would have been cheaper, but at Christmas with the added delays brought about by Covid restrictions, it really wasn't an option.

All in all, the SkyBox was a fun project to work on during a bleak, pandemic-restricted holiday season. It holds everything I need it to, including my battery charger, lipo batteries, transmitter, and various tools and parts. I hope to use it for many years.



## Remembering Sam Burke

Long time SOGGI member Sam Burke Passed away on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Ed Smith and Bob Hammett have contributed some memories:

I first met Sam when I was a part of the UPRC United Pylon Racing Circuit some fifty years ago. He flew control line FAI Speed and Rat Race at the time. Years later I caught up with him when I was starting to fly indoor Rubber. Sam had some of his peanut scale planes that flew as if they were under radio control. (No aerobatics). It was about the time I became a member of SOGGI. It was then I learned of Bob Hammett, Sam and Warren Kelly all flew Free Flight Rubber and so began my adventure Travelling with San and Bob to FF Flying Aces and Great Grape events at Geneseo NY.

Bob had become acquainted with Sam at some point between my contacts over the years so I'll let him take over from here. Sam was an artist and a friend.

Ed

I'll miss Sam Burke as my friend, and as a member of the Southern Ontario Glider Group Inc. Over the 20-year span that I knew Sam, we regularly traveled together to attend the annual Flying Aces Rubber Freeflight contests at Geneseo, and the annual Weak Signals R/C Expositions at Toledo.

Before I knew Sam, he was a champion u-control speed flyer who represented Canada overseas on at least two FAI contest occasions. Over the years, his aeromodeling activities broadened to include R/C sailplanes and rubber freeflights, to name just a few.

In recent years, together with Ed Smith, Bernie Hall and other friends, Sam and I were also able to attend many of the monthly public lectures given at Waterloo's Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics. None of us were physicists, but we all shared a curiosity about how the universe works.

Sam was a great aeromodeler, a sought-after commercial artist, and my good friend. He will be missed. RIP Sam.

A few photos from happier days are attached below.

Bob H.



Sam in August, 2003.



Sam and Bob Stewart at Geneseo in July 2001.



Sam with Bob Hammett at the Geneseo FAC contest, July 2000.



Sam and Warren Kelly. Geneseo, July 17 2006.



With Ed Smith, July 19, 2015.



Sam with Ed Smith at Geneseo, July 13 2016.



August 13, 2001, Sam launches his Skokie.



# TASK



Month Year, Vol.## No. #

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<b>Calendar of Events</b>	
TBA	